

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A-6

BALTIMORE SUN
28 October 1983

Hopkins's Knight criticizes invasion

By Frank P.L. Somerville

A Johns Hopkins history professor who specializes in the Caribbean region was cynical yesterday about a U.S. government expectation that invading Grenada would meet little resistance, calling it a "typical CIA miscalculation."

Speaking at a hurriedly arranged "teach-in" on the campus attended by about 100 Hopkins students and others, Franklin Knight replied to a question about the unexpectedly heavy resistance on the island: "Americans always calculate that other people have no dignity."

He said the invasion by U.S. troops was a violation of the "national sovereignty" of Grenada, and that trying to justify it as protection of human rights in the tiny island nation "did not hold water."

Such a basis for intervening in a country's affairs is "certainly uncharacteristic of American foreign policy," he said. Otherwise, he asked, why did the United States not invade Argentina "when law and order broke down" there in the 1970s and thousands disappeared?

In an acerbic aside, after conceding that protecting American citizens from "an erratic, highly paranoid bunch" of military leaders in Grenada arguably could be a plausible goal of an invasion, Dr. Knight suggested that there is less safety "on the streets of Baltimore" than "in any of those countries" in the Caribbean.

A Jamaican native educated at the universities of the West Indies and Wisconsin, Dr. Knight has been on the Hopkins faculty 10 years. He said he was acquainted with a number of Grenadians, including the



The Sun/Richard Childress

FRANKLIN KNIGHT

... says U.S. miscalculated

slain prime minister, Maurice Bishop.

It is ironic that Mr. Bishop, considered an enemy by the Reagan government before his October 19 assassination, "is now a martyr," the professor said.

"As long as the Reagan administration snubbed him, he was fine," Dr. Knight said to laughter from a clearly anti-Reagan audience.

As for reacting to human rights violations in Grenada, the Organization of American States would have been "the proper instrument," the professor said, "but we've never used it [the OAS] except for convenience."